

Message Text

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1. DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE KENNETH RUSH ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT AT THE CONCLUSION OF HIS ONE-DAY VISIT TO THAILAND:
QUOTE THIS IS MY FIRST VISIT TO THAILAND AND SOUTHEAST ASIA SINCE I BECAME DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE IN FEBRAURY 1973. I HAVE FOUND IT MOST USEFUL TO MEET WITH THE LEADERS OF THAILAND AND HEAR THEIR VIEWS FIRSTHAND. MY MEETINGS THIS MORNING WITH PRIME MINISTER SANYA AND FOREIGN MINISTER CHAROONPHAN WERE CONSTRUCTIVE AND CORDIAL AND COVERED A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. I ALSO MET OTHER THAI LEADERS INFORMALLY DURING THIS VISIT.

SOUTHEAST ASIA TODAY IS IN A PERIOD OF CHANGE. GROUPS WHICH WERE FORMERLY FIGHTING ARE NOW TALKING AND IN SOME CASES WORKING TOGETHER. WE HOPE THAT THOSE IN SOME AREAS WHO ARE STILL TRYING TO IMPOSE THEIR WILL ON OTHERS BY MILITARY MEANS WILL GET IN STEP WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE TIMES. REGIONAL COOPERATION IS ON THE INCREASE AS NATIONS SEEK ADDED STRENGTH THROUGH UNITY. I WELCOME THE EMPHASIS THAT IS BEING PLACED ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ON PROVIDING A BETTER LIFE FOR THE PEOPLE OF THIS LONG TROUBLED AREA AND WE IN THE UNITED STATES SUPPORT THESE TRENDS.

WE HAVE WORKED CLOSELY WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THAILAND FOR MANY YEARS. WE VALUE THAILAND'S COOPERATION AND ITS FRIENDSHIP. IT IS OUR HOPE TO CONTINUE A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP
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BASED UPON MUTUAL RESPECT AND CLEAR RECOGNITION OF OUR

SEPARATE AND COMMON INTERESTS AS SOVEREIGN COUNTRIES.

THE EYES OF THE WORLD HAVE FOCUSED ON THAILAND SINCE THE
DRAMATIC DEVELOPMENTS LAST OCTOBER. I REGARD THAILAND'S EFFORTS
TO BUILD CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY AS ONE OF THE MOST
PROMISING DEVELOPMENTS IN ASIAN POLITICAL AFFAIRS TODAY. THE
GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES WISH THAILAND
EVERY SUCCESS IN THESE EFFORTS.

MY VISIT HAS BEEN ALL TOO SHORT, BUT IT HAS NEVERTHELESS
GIVEN ME AN OPPORTUNITY FOR FIRSTHAND IMPRESSIONS OF
THAILAND, A NATION WHICH IS SO IMPORTANT TO THE STABILITY OF
THE AREA. I RETURN TO WASHINGTON WITH A FAR BETTER UNDERSTANDING
OF THAILAND'S ASPIRATION AND WITH RENEWED CONVICTION THAT
THE UNITED STATES SHOULD CONTINUE TO ASSIST THE ROYAL THAI
GOVERNMENT, IN WAYS THAT ARE DESIRED BY AND ACCEPTABLE TO THE
THAI GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE, TO PROVIDE A BETTER LIFE FOR ITS
PEOPLE.

FINALLY, I WISH TO THANK THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT AND
PARTICULARLY PRIME MINISTER SANYA AND FOREIGN MINISTER
CHAROONPHAN, FOR THE GENEROUS HOSPITALITY SHOWN TO MYSELF
AND MRS. RUSH DURING OUR VISIT. AND TO THE PEOPLE OF THAILAND.
I EXTEND BEST WISHES FROM MY GOVERNMENT AND THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE. UNQUOTE

2. IN AN AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE TO SAIGON,
MR. RUSH ALSO TOLD REPORTERS THE U.S. WOULD INCREASE ITS PRESENT
SCRAP IRON QUOTA OF 14,800 TONS TO 34,800 TONS - AN INCREASE
OF 20,000 TONS.

NOTE: FOR FULL TEXT AIRPORT REMARKS SEE OUR 3724.
HEDGES

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